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**AFGHANISTAN**

## ROAD UPDATE

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### Kandahar-Herat Highway

The Kandahar-Herat Highway connects the southern and western parts of Afghanistan. This 557 km stretch of highway is part of the “Ring Road”, which interlinks the main cities of Kabul, Kandahar, and Herat. USAID is funding 326 km of the Kandahar-Herat Highway, while Saudi Arabia and Japan are each responsible for a 116 km section. The Japanese have stopped heavy construction on all but 10km due to recent security and demining concerns, in which insurgents burned three pieces of the contractor’s equipment. Their security plan is now under review. The Ministry of Public Works signed a contract for the Saudi section and the contractor is mobilizing.

Along the US portion, all demining operations were recently halted due to security concerns, but at this time there is no delay in construction progress. In **Section 3** (Km 231-356), 25% of the first layer of asphalt has been laid and 22% of the second layer. In **Section 4** (Km 356-456), shoulder works and culvert work continue. Laying of crushed aggregate base (CAB) and asphalt treated base (ATB) is underway along with binder course paving. To date, 43% of the first layer and 36% of the second layer of asphalt has been laid. In **Section 5** (Km 456-557), surveying, earthworks and embankment work continue, CAB course paving and laying of ATB course are underway, and 2% of the first layer of asphalt has been laid.

USAID incorporates capacity-building, a principal component of development and reconstruction assistance, into road reconstruction efforts in order to increase the participation and commitment of Afghans. Afghans working on the road effort gain valuable skills, enabling them to eventually maintain their roads. During this period, 73% of the project’s employees were Afghan nationals.



Afghans work on bridge 6



Afghan engineer conducting concrete testing with culvert work



#### Kandahar-Herat Highway Sections

- Japanese Section
- Saudi Section
- US Section 3
- US Section 4
- US Section 5



Laying of aggregate base course, Section 4

#### Guide for the Non-Road Engineers: Construction Flow



## Provincial Roads Highlights

Security continues to delay progress on several provincial road projects and part of the Ring Road reconstruction.

Secondary Road	Progress to date
Kabul-Gardez Road (122km)	The road is under redesign due to effects of winter weather and significant traffic increase.
Pul-e Alam to Ring Road (35km)	Demining and surveying complete on 33km, earthworks complete for 20km. Culvert work on 18km on-going. Subgrade and subbase work continuing on 14 km.
Jalalabad-Asmar Road (122km)	Demining complete on 112km. Excavation and culvert work continue.
Kandahar-Tirin Kot Road (148km)	The first 60km (leaving Kandahar and headed into more remote area north) is complete. For the first time, a bus route is operational on this section.
Panjsher Road (69.2km)	Contract for 50km section awarded June 22; mobilization underway. Contract for remaining 19km under negotiation.
Urban Roads	A contractor has been selected for Bibi Mahro Road, and the award will be granted pending final approval from UNOPS. Ground-breaking was held on June 12.
Sheberghan to Sari Pul Road (54km)	Demining complete. Sub-grade, embankment, and culvert work continues. 90% of aggregate production complete.
Farah-Ring Road (70km)	Demining operations suspended due to increased attacks and threats. Contract awarded June 1; contractor in early stages of staffing and planning; designs under review. 20km is designated for local construction firms.
Lashkar Gah-Ring Road (49km)	Demining operations suspended due to increased attacks and threats. Contract awarded in April; camp construction is underway.
Ghazni-Sharan Road (57.5km)	Contract awarded in April; camp construction, demining, and earthworks in progress.



Culvert work on Pul-e Alam Ring Road



Earthworks ongoing on Jalalabad-Asmar Road



Earthworks ongoing on Jalalabad-Asmar Road

## Road-Related Security Incidents

Six dump trucks that were being used on a road excavation site along Section 3 of the Kandahar to Herat highway (in Farah Province) were set on fire the night of June 28. Guards were sent to investigate. When they arrived they discovered the equipment was fully engulfed with flames. No one was injured and no one has been apprehended.

Nationwide demonstrations in mid-May shut down several provincial road projects and part of the Ring Road reconstruction.

Indicator (Hostile Attacks)	This Reporting Period	Cumulative Total FY05
Persons Kidnapped/Released	0/0	3/2
Persons Injured/Killed	7/3	7/8
Other Hostile Attacks	3	37